

diperal Temple at Paestum, in which many peculiarities are observable; the immense size and projection of the abacus seem to crush the echinus, which has beneath it two rings, under which the flutings curl in the form of leaves. At Selinus, Mr. Woods noticed some remarkable features in the capitals:—"The shape of these capitals is very peculiar; I have seen nothing like them in Greece, except a fragment on a very small scale which I noticed at Corfu. The common Grecian Doric capitals in the best examples form a sort of ogive, and we find this curve at the third temple, but in the great temple, and in two of the three smaller ones, a deep hollow interrupts the flow of the lines." These capitals were each cut out of a block of stone thirteen feet square.

In the two colossal Doric colonnades at Rome, erected in honour of Trajan and Antoninus, a carved head and a fillet are placed beneath the echinus, which in these two colonnades is also enriched with the egg-and-anchor ornament, the only ancient instances, I believe, in which that member is found enriched in its position under an abacus." Sir C. Wren carved the echinus of his famous monument on Fish-street-hill, London, in the same way. In the Tuscan capital, but one fillet is placed beneath the ovolo, and in the Roman Doric usually adopted, three fillets are found, as shown by

figure No. 10; these, like the annulets of the



No. 10.

columns of the Agora, appear to surround the neck of the shaft, instead of being placed on a slope continued from the echinus, as in the best Greek examples. It would appear, therefore, as if those who sought to improve (as they thought) the contour of Doric capitals, were content to take for their patterns examples of the latest and most debased period of Greek art, but it is difficult to conceive how any one, with the least pretension to taste, can prefer the vertical stiffness of the fillets in the Roman and modern Doric capitals before the easy flowing of the annulets in the more antique examples, wherein the graceful sweep of the echinus gradually dies against the shaft of the column, a practice never lost sight of, although, as we have seen, this detail may be carried out with slight deviations. In the next paper, the word "*Hypotrachetum*" will be defined, which will conclude the description of a capital as far as the Grecian Doric order is concerned.

G. R. F.

#### TIMBER SCARPING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

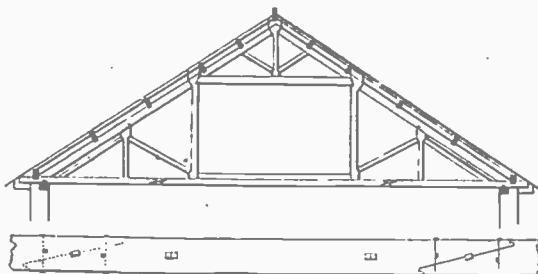
Sir,—Permit me to submit to you a sketch of a roof-truss at the Princess's Theatre to the tie-beams of which I more particularly wish to call the attention of your readers. As timbers of the required length were not obtainable in London, I had them sawn in halves, each half

extending to its required length, scarfed and bolted with oak keys through both flitches, to prevent expansion. This mode of scarfing I consider preferable to any in Mr. Wilson's paper on the same subject.

Wishing you to make all allowance for imperfection, I am, Sir,

A PRACTICAL CARPENTER.

March 22, 1844.



(The Heading-Joints to a larger scale.)

#### SCANTLINGS OF THE TIMBERS.

	Ins.	Ins.
Tie-beams .....	14	11
Principals .....	15	10
Crown-piece .....	14	10
Upper principals to king-posts .....	9	10
Oak king-posts (in shaft) .....	8	10
Struts to ditto .....	5	10
Oak principal queen-post (in shaft) .....	12	10
Oak minor queen-post (in shaft) .....	7	10

	Ins.	Ins.
Relieving principals .....	8	10
Struts to ditto .....	7	10
Straining-sills .....	8	10
Purlins .....	8	6
Hips and ridges .....	14	3
Rafters .....	6	24
Extreme length of tie-beams 68 feet.		
Span, clear of walls, 63 feet.		

#### CROSS, BISHOPSTONE CHURCH, WILTS; GARGOYLE, ST. PETER'S CHURCH, SHAFTSBURY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

Sir,—Your acceptance of my last contribution to your pages has induced me to forward for insertion in your useful periodical two more architectural details from my sketchbook.

The first is a stone cross on the eastern gable of Bishopstone Church, Wilts, which is a gem of the fifteenth century, lately brought into public notice, on account of the beautiful window, designed by Mr. Willement, placed in its south transept, to the memory of the Rev. — Montgomery. Now that the



against the use of such a Christian emblem has disappeared, this might be employed in any ecclesiastical building with better effect than many which I have lately observed, so crowded with enrichment as to lose their original and obvious simplicity of form. If your numerous correspondents would make a point of each sending you the outline of at least one architectural beauty (as a cross, a crocket, a boss, a finial, &c.) from every village church that might come beneath their notice, I imagine that with the least possible trouble a collection might soon be formed both interesting and valuable; and THE BUILDER, in addition to the authority of practical weight which it at present possesses, would acquire the feature of a "museum," from which the architectural

might always glean hints for the improvement of their details.

My second sketch represents what I take to be a "GARGOYLE" from the ancient Church of St. Peter, Shaftsbury and which I merely send you as a bold and spirited specimen of the grotesque, worth preserving, however its applicability to buildings of the present age may be contested by some.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

Great Newport-street,  
March 25, 1844.



#### METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENTS.

The following is the first report of the commissioners appointed by her Majesty to inquire into and consider the most effectual means of improving the metropolis, and of providing increased facilities of communication within the same:—

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

We, the Commissioners appointed by warrant under your Majesty's sign manual, bearing date the 23rd of November, 1842, "to inquire into and consider the most effectual means of improving the metropolis, and of providing increased facilities of communication within the same," having held our first meeting on Thursday, the 9th of February following, at the office of your Majesty's Commissioners of Woods, &c., in Whitehall-place, and having continued our sittings from time to time up to the present date, humbly beg leave to lay before your Majesty this first report of our proceedings.

We have commenced these proceedings with a deep sense of the importance of the trust reposed in us, and at the same time with a conviction of its difficulties,—difficulties belonging not only to the extent, but to the nature of the inquiries which we are instructed to pursue.

The point to which in every kingdom a native looks with pride, and a foreigner with curiosity, is undoubtedly its metropolis. Other cities may be the special depositories of learning, of science, of the arts, of manufactures, or of commerce, but the foreigner expects to find these all more or less represented in the chief city of the kingdom; and no enlightened native considers his acquaintance with his country complete till he has visited her capital.

London, as the chief city of England, from the period of its occupation by the Romans, has been gradually augmented in population and extent until it has attained to a magnitude exceeding that of any other European capital, and surpassing, in the number of its inhabitants, many of the smaller European states. With the increase of its limits, there has been a corresponding, perhaps more than corresponding, accumulation of wealth. It has become the central point of the commerce of the world; and, owing to its position in that respect, as well as to its being the seat of government and legislation of this vast empire, it has arisen, and become established

thin it, classes of interests—municipal, commercial, and professional—associated and represented in various ways (in accordance with our popular institutions), the magnitude and weight of which are without example in any other great city. These necessarily exercise, in their several spheres, an extensive influence on the public opinion; and as those influences are infinitely various, and often conflicting in their tendencies, they would present the greatest difficulties to the labours of this or any other commission that might be required to devise or to adopt any one general and systematic scheme for the re-construction of those parts of the capital of which the existing imperfections or deformities appear to call for removal or cure. And, even when confined to the task of selecting the most useful and practicable from the numerous plans for local improvements which have been referred by your Majesty's commissioners to this commission, it is difficult to